

# What's New in the MPDC

MARCH 25, 2002

## MPDC ANNOUNCES EXPANSION OF POLICE CADET PROGRAM

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*For more detailed information about the Police Cadet program, including eligibility requirements and the application process, go to:*

***[mpdc.dc.gov/about/employ/cadet.shtm](http://mpdc.dc.gov/about/employ/cadet.shtm)***

The Metropolitan Police Department is expanding its Police Cadet program, which provides educational and on-the-job training to recent high school graduates in DC who are interested in becoming Metropolitan Police officers. The Police Cadet entrance examination will be held on Saturday, April 6, at 9 am, at the MPDC Recruiting Office, #6 DC Village Lane, SW, Building 1A. The Department plans to hire 25 new Cadets by mid-August, following background investigations and medical evaluations of qualified candidates. Cadets earn an associate's degree from the University of the District of Columbia, with their tuition paid by the Police Department. They also work part-time for the MPDC, rotating among different assignments in district stations and specialized units. Cadets earn \$18,500 a year for a 30-hour work-week. Upon completion of their associate's degree, Cadets convert to career police status and enter recruit training at the MPDC's training academy. Read the complete announcement at:

*Learn about other career and volunteer opportunities in the MPDC at:*

***[mpdc.dc.gov/about/employ.shtm](http://mpdc.dc.gov/about/employ.shtm)***

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**[mpdc.dc.gov](http://mpdc.dc.gov) (Click on News Room)**

## CHIEF RAMSEY EXPLAINS CLOSED CIRCUIT TV SYSTEM DURING US HOUSE SUBCOMMITTEE HEARING

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Chief Ramsey told members of Congress this week that the MPDC's use of Closed circuit TV is limited, legal and necessary in protecting the Nation's Capital in the post-September 11 environment. In testimony before the House Government Reform Subcommittee on the District of Columbia, Ramsey explained that the MPDC does not operate a round-the-clock monitoring system, nor does the Department own hundreds of cameras across the District, as some reports have indicated. Rather, the Department can activate a network of approximately 12 CCTV cameras, focused on high-risk public spaces, during major events or periods of heightened alert. The Chief explained that the cameras monitor public spaces for suspicious activities, focusing on broad areas, not individuals. He also pointed out that the system has no audio overhear capabilities, and it does not employ face-recognition technology. He said the Department is finalizing a new set of policies and procedures designed to improve operations, protect privacy rights and guard against any possible abuse of the technology. "Given this uncertain environment [after September 11] and the enormous challenges we face, I would argue that it would be irresponsible for us not to use every legal tool at our disposal, including CCTV, to help protect our city and, ultimately, our democracy," he testified. Read the Chief's complete statement at:

*Ramsey also addressed the issue of CCTV in DC neighborhoods, noting that several communities have asked the MPDC to install cameras to help document and crack down on street crime. The Chief said the Department is analyzing the issues associated with neighborhood-based cameras, which would be considered only when there is a clear crime problem that could be addressed with video and widespread community support.*

**[mpdc.dc.gov/news/stmts/2002/03/032202.shtm](http://mpdc.dc.gov/news/stmts/2002/03/032202.shtm)**

## MPDC OFFICERS HONORED WITH MAYOR'S MERITORIOUS SERVICE AWARDS

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*The Mayor's Meritorious Service Awards are just one of the ways in which MPDC officers are recognized for their service to the community. See the full range of awards and recent award winners on the "Heroes of the MPDC" page at:*

**[mpdc.dc.gov/about/heroes/  
heroes.shtm](http://mpdc.dc.gov/about/heroes/heroes.shtm)**

About a year ago, the Sixth Police District was experiencing a spike in armed robberies and carjackings of cab drivers. Members of the 6D Focused Mission Team and district detectives soon developed an M.O. for the crimes, and began paying special attention to cabs in the targeted area. They soon struck pay dirt, observing the holdup of a cab they had been following in the 4800 block of Jay Street, NE. Officers arrested two suspects and cleared up the pattern. For their skill, bravery and dedication, nine members of 6D recently were presented with the Mayor's Meritorious Silver Award for 2002. This year's ceremony honored police officers, as well as firefighters and emergency medical personnel, who demonstrated exceptional service to DC's

business community. This was the 12th year the DC Chamber of Commerce hosted the event, with Mayor Williams presenting the awards. Read about all of the MPDC award winners at:

**[mpdc.dc.gov/about/heroes/merit/2002/merit\\_02.shtm](http://mpdc.dc.gov/about/heroes/merit/2002/merit_02.shtm)**

## UPCOMING: "WATCH YOUR CAR" ANNOUNCEMENT

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Chief Ramsey and other DC officials this week will formally announce a new and innovative auto theft prevention program called "Watch Your Car." Under the free program, residents who register their vehicles with "Watch Your Car" receive special decals that they affix to their vehicles. If police officers spot a "Watch Your Car" vehicle traveling between the hours of 1 am and 5 am, they can pull over the vehicle in an attempt to determine if it has been stolen. Statistics show that many vehicles are stolen – or driven – during the early-morning hours. The news conference formally announcing "Watch Your Car" is scheduled for Wednesday, March 27, outside the Eastern Market Metro station. Residents can get more information, or request registration materials, by calling toll-free, 1-877-DC2-STOP. Information is also available on-line (the registration form will soon be available on-line as well) at:

*According to preliminary 2001 statistics, auto theft was one of the few crimes that increased in DC last year. Learn about ways you can protect your vehicle using the recommended "layered approach" to prevention at:*

**[mpdc.dc.gov/info/traffic/  
autolayer.shtm](http://mpdc.dc.gov/info/traffic/autolayer.shtm)**

**[mpdc.dc.gov/serv/programs/wyc.shtm](http://mpdc.dc.gov/serv/programs/wyc.shtm)**

## NOTE: VICTIM SURVEY CONTINUES

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The MPDC second annual telephone survey of recent crime victims in DC, which began March 14, continues over the next couple of weeks. Telephone calls are being made during daytime and evening hours, Monday through Saturday, by MPDC recruit officers who have received special training in administering the victim questionnaire. A stratified sample of approximately 1,000 recent victims of robbery, assault, domestic violence, burglary, auto theft and arson are being contacted. All responses are confidential. For more information about the victim survey, call Debra Hoffmaster at 202-727-8726 or visit:

**[mpdc.dc.gov](http://mpdc.dc.gov) (Click on News Room)**

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*Information, ideas or comments about this service?*

*E-mail Kevin Morison, MPDC's Director of Corporate Communications, at [kevin.morison@dc.gov](mailto:kevin.morison@dc.gov).*

*Would you like to have this information emailed to you? Just go to our web site and register with [crimereports.com](http://crimereports.com).*

**METROPOLITAN POLICE DEPARTMENT WEB PAGE**  
**MPDC.DC.GOV**